

Appl. No. 09/944,457
Amdmt. dated August 29, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 29, 2003

REMARKS

Claim 25 has been amended per the Examiner's suggestion to clarify that the claimed antibody is antigen binding fragment. Support for amendment to Claim 25 may be found in original Claim 25, as well as pages 32 and 33 of the specification. Claim 27 has been canceled

Claim Rejections:

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected Claim 25 as indefinite because the antibody of claim 22 cannot be a fragment. Per the Examiner's kind suggestion, Applicant has amended claim 25 to clarify that it encompasses an antigen binding fragment of the antibody of claim 22. Therefore, this ground of rejection has been overcome and Applicant respectfully requests that it be withdrawn.

The Examiner has also rejected Claim 27, alleging that the term "specifically" binds is unclear. Applicant has canceled Claim 27 and therefore respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn.

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SUMMARY

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowance of claims 22-24 and 26 and believes that currently pending claim 25 is also patentable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Noel Kaman

C. Noel Kaman

Registration No. 51,857

Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200